(c) to (e) Letters have been received from Members of Parliament urging speedy appointment of regular incumbent to the post of Director, Rampur Raza Library. They were informed that the Recruitment Rules had been amended and action to fill up the post initiated.

Thefts of heritage items from National Museum

†2012. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the precious heritage items such as Statue of Buddha, the Medal of Ravindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi etc., have been stolen from the National Museum of the country;

(b) the persons responsible for the theft; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The heritage items such as statue of Buddha, the Medal of Ravindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi do not belong to National Museum, New Delhi. However, one sculpture named 'Buddha Head (Sarnath)' was found missing from the Archaeological Gallery of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 29th December, 2004. The matter has been referred to the Kolkata Police for investigation. After the incident the entire security system of Indian Museum has been further strengthened and additional CCTV have been installed with recording facilities. The Ministry has reviewed from time to time the security arrangements of all the museums and passed necesary directions.

The medal of Rabindra Nath Tagore and the Brass Medal meant for Indira Gandhi do not belong to any institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Old cultural traditions in Uttaranchal

†2013. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various old cultural traditions are existing and followed even today in Joansar Bhawar, Johar, Vyas, Darma and Choudas area of the Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken to protect and promote the above cultures?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.